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| RI Science Teachers Association shares opportunities in science education for teachers and students.

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| http://www.rista.us/Resources/Pictures/RISTA%20logo%20small.png |

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| http://www.rista.us/resources/Pictures/IMG_0027.jpg*If you are interested in any of the opportunities listed, please contact the organization that is listed. Send any items that you consider relevant to other science educators to ristanewsletter@gmail.com*Top 10 Things to do this Summer to Prepare to Implement NGSS in Fall:10. Watch some NGSS videos on the Teaching Channel.  Teaching Channel has had great videos that show the [three dimensions](https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/next-generation-science-standards-achieve%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), they are now adding [more videos showing NGSS](https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/transition-to-ngss-achieve%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) classrooms in action.  Check back to see what they have added.9.  Read (or re-read) the *[Framework for K-12 Science Education](http://www.nap.edu/catalog/13165/a-framework-for-k-12-science-education-practices-crosscutting-concepts%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)*.  This is the reason why NGSS exists.  It is a must-read if you are implementing NGSS.  8. Watch [NGSS videos](http://www.bozemanscience.com/next-generation-science-standards/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) by Paul Anderson on Bozemanscience.com.  Paul teaches in Bozeman, MT and has become a prolific Youtuber, on a wide variety of biology topics as well as science education in general.  His videos are very clear and concise with great examples.7. Check out the [resources available](http://ngss.nsta.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) from the National Science Teachers Association.  NSTA has produced numerous graphics, handouts, webinars, and other resources on NGSS.  In addition, NSTA has trained a group of educators to vet potential NGSS-aligned resources.  Feedback on how to use resources to make them align to NGSS is provided with each standard.  6. Review resources and the standards you are responsible for teaching in 2016-17 at the [official NGSS](http://www.nextgenscience.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) website.  Be sure to check out the new resources for educators, lots to see!5. Tweet with fellow educators on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.  Log on to Twitter at 9 pm and follow #ngsschat to discuss how the new standards, their implementation, assessment, and many other related topics.  Questions are predetermined and posted prior to the chat.  If you have never participated in a twitter chat, feel free to lurk until you see the routine. 4.  Check out [NGSS Resources](http://www.rista.us/page-1465464%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) on the RISTA website; storylines, phenomena, assessments, OH MY!3.  Be sure to include information on NGSS in your Welcome Back Letter to parents.  A great [Q & A](http://ngss.nsta.org/parent-q-and-a.aspx%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) from NSTA and info from [Achieve](http://www.nextgenscience.org/parents%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) can give you ideas.2.  Observe and journal ideas for phenomena that relate to your topics and will engage your students.  Phenomena like "Why do puddles dry up?" or "Where does the wind come from?" can spark ideas and make your students curious.  1. Get excited for a great year of engaging students!  **\*\*New\*\* NGSS Resource**Overview for PrincipalsAchieve has been working with states and districts to more fully support principals as they strive to implement NGSS within their schools. In consultation with states, districts, and principals, we have developed an easy-to-use two-pager for school leaders. We believe this document can provide greater clarity to school leaders and help them better envision the range of instructional supports that students and teachers need.  [Access the document to share and/or print.](http://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/resource/files/NGSS%20Overview%20for%20Principals_0.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**Opportunities & Resources for Teachers:**   Summer Workshop for Secondary Science Teachers: Bringing Nuclear Science and the NGSS into Your ClassroomHave you ever seen the blue glow from a REAL nuclear reactor in action? Well, here is your chance to come and experience it first hand! The Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center (RINSC), located on URI's Bay Campus in Narragansett RI will be offering a one-day workshop on Wednesday, August 17th, 2016 from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM free to any active science educator in Southern New EnglandThis great opportunity provides professional development for science educators who would like to:● learn about technology in nuclear research● take a tour of a fully operating nuclear reactor● take part in an actual experiment to measure half-life and identify an unknown element● see how it is used in medical research, materials analysis and everyday life● see how local science educators can use the facilities and materials provided to bring NGSS to the classroomThis is also an opportunity to discover a resource that is available to classes and individual students for education and science projects.The program will be free to any active science educator in Southern New England but space is limited so please sign up by the registration link below and don’t miss out on this great opportunity!**Location: Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center, 16 Reactor Road, Narragansett, RI****Date: Wednesday, August 17th, 2016 from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM****Details: Event is open to all Science educators & it is FREE!****Register Here: [Registration for Professional Development at the RINSC](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1E7oT2xPn_phEn5fuxdMHiQ8SxTY4gJ8-AyHzChShEOY/viewform?c=0&w=1" \t "_blank)****Contact Info: Jeff Davis at jdavis@rinsc.ri.gov or (401) 874 - 2600**Personal Genetics Education ProjectThe Personal Genetics Education Project, based at Harvard Medical School, will be holding a three-day workshop for teachers and administrators that will explore ethical, legal and social issues related to genetics. The workshop will be held in Boston July 19-21, and we are offering a $200 stipend to attendees. The workshop is interdisciplinary and teachers of all subjects are welcome. [See information on flyer](http://www.rista.us/resources/Documents/Genetics.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)Teachers on the Estuary (TOTE): Investigating a Changing EnvironmentPD designed for middle and high school teachers being offered by the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve based out on Prudence Island and is free of charge. The workshop will be August 15-18, includes dorm-style lodging while on location on Prudence Island.  Teachers will get access to real data while working with scientists to develop investigations that can engage their students.  See [the flyer](http://www.rista.us/resources/Documents/TOTE.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) for info or information on the workshop at: [http://www.nbnerr.org/tote.htm](http://www.nbnerr.org/tote.htm%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)Using Citizen Science Data in the Classroom (CSA 521) is the newest course offered by the Citizen Science Academy. The course is primarily designed for K-12 educators and will provide you with the tools you need to use citizen science data in an educational setting.*This course assumes you have basic familiarity with the concept of citizen science and have explored at least one citizen science project on your own.* Several projects will be highlighted in this course: * Project BudBurst
* eBird
* FrogWatch USA
* Picture Post
* CoCoRaHS

If you are entirely new to citizen science, two introductory courses are available through Citizen Science Academy:* CSA 501: *Introduction to Project BudBurst for Educators*
* CSA 520: *Intro to Citizen Science: Explorations in Educational Settings*

These courses offer background and activities to effectively implement citizen science projects in the classroom and provide a good starting place if you are new to implementing citizen science programs as part your instructional activities. All CSA courses also qualify for 2.0 graduate-level relicensure credits from Colorado School of Mines.Ready to learn how to implement citizen science programs and activities? Registration is still open for our July 12 courses, but spaces are limited, so sign up soon!  [http://bit.ly/csacourses](http://bit.ly/csacourses%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)Project Learning Tree (K-8) ​**[Register now](https://neeeaconf.wufoo.com/forms/pw74xqn1h8ojfg/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) for our Project Learning Tree K-8 Teacher Training and receive**:§   High-quality professional development for both formal and non-formal educators;§   Flexible, investigation-based activities–rich with STEM, language arts, and social studies–that meet state standards, CCSS, and NGSS;§   Tips to safely take children outdoors and bring nature into your classroom;§   Invitation into a diverse and supportive professional network;§   PLT’s K-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide with 96 multi-disciplinary activities;§   AND eligibility for funding to visit a local tree farm and engage in one or more PLT activities on the property through our *Wheels to Woods* program.**When**Thursday, August 11 , 9am-3:30pm**Where**Dalrymple Boathouse, Roger Williams Park**Cost**FREE! Value of the training and activity guide is over $100, but thanks to generous funding through the Albert I. Pierce Foundation and the RI Tree Farm Association, you receive the training, the curriculum guide, and the chance to apply for the *Wheels to Woods*program all at no cost to you or your school or organization!**Register Today!**[Click here to register](https://neeeaconf.wufoo.com/forms/pw74xqn1h8ojfg/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**Questions?**Contact Jeanine Silversmith, PLT-RI State Coordinator, at info@rieea.org or at 401-569-8758. Project Learning Tree (Early Childhood)​**[Register now](https://neeeaconf.wufoo.com/forms/pugzhdh1pkdiws/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) for our PLT Early Childhood Teacher Training and receive**:§   High-quality professional development for both formal and non-formal educators;§   Hands-on lessons for young children that integrate investigations of nature with art, literature, math, music, and movement;§   Tips to safely take young children outdoors and bring nature into your classroom;§   Invitation into a diverse and supportive professional network;§   PLT’s Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood Guide and CD with over 130 activities;§   AND eligibility for funding to visit a local tree farm and engage in one or more PLT activities on the property through our *Wheels to Woods* program.**When**Friday, August 12, 9am-12pm**Where**Dalrymple Boathouse, Roger Williams Park**Cost**FREE! Value of the training and materials is over $100, but thanks to generous funding through the Albert I. Pierce Foundation and the RI Tree Farm Association, you receive the training, the curriculum guide and CD, and the chance to apply for the *Wheels to Woods*program all at no cost to you or your school or organization!**Register Today!**[Click here](https://neeeaconf.wufoo.com/forms/pugzhdh1pkdiws/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) **Questions?**Contact Jeanine Silversmith, PLT-RI State Coordinator, at info@rieea.org or at 401-569-8758.Historic South Ferry Walking Tour –Wednesday, July 20, 2016, 10:30-12:00pm& Wednesday, August 3, 2016, 10:30-12:00pmLocal Historians Bernice and Wayne Durfee will be giving a 45-minute public lecture and slide presentation on the fascinating history of the South Ferry Village area in Narragansett, RI. Beginning with the late 1600's land purchase, the area's use for shipbuilding, several ferry services, a steam engine generated wool and cotton mill - on through to the acquisition of the land by the US government for use as a strategically placed military installation.  The presentation will be followed by a 30-minute walk to the remaining gun turrets on campus and ending at the South Ferry Church.For room locations, information or directions call [401-874-6211](file://localhost/tel/401-874-6211%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). Beachcombing for FamiliesSunday, July 17, 2016, 10:30-12:30pm &Sunday, August 14, 2016, 10:30-12:30pmFree two-hour beachcombing experience, led by a URI Graduate School of Oceanography Outreach Scientist, will explore one of Rhode Island's unique coastal beaches.To register for this event please call the Office of Marine Programs at [401-874-6211](file://localhost/tel/401-874-6211%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).Endeavor Open HouseSaturday, September 10, 2016To celebrate Research Vessel Endeavor's 40th anniversary, the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography will host a public open house at the Narragansett Bay Campus from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday, September 10, 2016, including tours of R/V Endeavor, a touch tank for kids, and exhibits about Narragansett Bay, oceans, and marine life. Tours and exhibits are free and open to the public. Food will be available from local food trucks. For information visit [www.gso.uri.edu/event/endeavor-open-house](http://www.gso.uri.edu/event/endeavor-open-house%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)For more information or directions call [401-874-6222](file://localhost/tel/401-874-6222%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).Are You Ready for the Astronomical Event of the Decade?August 21,2017 will be the first total solar eclipse visible in the US in almost 40 years.  Everyone in the US will see a partial eclipse, but only those people in a narrow 60-mile across band will see the total eclipse.  The website[http://eclipsewise.com/solar/SEgmap/2001-2100/SE2017Aug21Tgmap.html](http://eclipsewise.com/solar/SEgmap/2001-2100/SE2017Aug21Tgmap.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) provides an interactive map where you can get details regarding the eclipse for your location and where you have to go to see the total eclipse.NSTA (National Science Teachers Association) produced an Eclipse Observing Guide ([http://www.nsta.org/publications/press/extras/files/solarscience/SolarScienceInsert.pdf](http://www.nsta.org/publications/press/extras/files/solarscience/SolarScienceInsert.pdf%C2%A0%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank);;) that you will find useful. It provides details about the solar eclipse, what causes it, and how to view it safely.The eclipse may seem some time away, but housing along the path of totality is already filling up, so the time is now to beginning planning for this astronomical event of the decade.SimScientists Needs Middle Level Pilot Classrooms!WestEd, a not-for-profit educational research agency, is currently recruiting middle grade science teachers for one of our projects: SimScientists: Model Progressions, for the 2016-2017 school year.The SimScientists: Model Progressions Pilot project, with funding from the United States Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, is an instructional module development project that aims to use technology to give students ways to explore and express their science knowledge through computer simulations of science systems. This is a great research opportunity to use innovative instructional modules that are designed to support the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) with your students.Participating teachers will receive training, a stipend up to $1000 for their involvement in the study, as well as access to simulation-based computer instructional modules.In order to participate, middle grade science teachers must be planning to teach units on **Ecosystems AND Genetics, within the same grade,**and be willing to use two suites of SimScientists simulation-based instructional modules for both **Ecosystems AND Genetics** units in their classroom. The pilot testing would need to occur during the beginning of the 2016-17 school year, with BOTH units and all study activities ending no later than March 15, 2017Study participation involves: sending home consent forms with your students, using the instructional modules for the two study units in your classroom during a total of **twelve class days**, a half day online training webinar, and completing end of unit surveys after each unit.Please see the “SimScientists Model Progressions Strand” for more information on these units:[https://wested.box.com/s/2sshcgx5qzrwz1061b5oa8dtxfmcr64s](https://wested.box.com/s/2sshcgx5qzrwz1061b5oa8dtxfmcr64s%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)For technical requirements, please click here: [https://wested.box.com/s/p992tod7lwseeq238zicj74bpjay7ssg](https://wested.box.com/s/p992tod7lwseeq238zicj74bpjay7ssg%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)  \*Note: SimScientists modules are **NOT** supported on iPads, iPhones, or other tablets. For answers to frequently asked questions about participating in a SimScientists study, please see our FAQs at:[https://wested.box.com/s/v48qp7erd3k05p9lup6kgxklo0njqath](https://wested.box.com/s/v48qp7erd3k05p9lup6kgxklo0njqath%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) If you are interested in participating in this research opportunity, please complete an online intake survey at:[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MPPilotIntakeSurvey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MPPilotIntakeSurvey%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)To learn more about this project, please see the FAQs or email Melissa Essinger at messing@wested.org. For the best chance of participating, please complete the survey by \*\*\*July 18th\*\*\* |

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